AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A lens, comprising:

a first lens surface;

a second lens surface, at least one of said first and second lens surfaces being a convex surface; and

a flange formed around the lens, projecting from said convex surface in a radial direction perpendicular to an optical axis,

wherein said flange is provided with a groove radially extending from said convex surface to the outer edge of said flange, said groove being configured for allowing removal of excess coating solution applied to the lens.

2. (Previously Presented) The lens according to claim 1, wherein said flange includes an outer ring area and an inner ring area that are different in thickness in an optical axis direction, and wherein said groove is cut out of part of said outer and inner ring areas.

3. (Previously Presented) The lens according to claim 2, wherein the thickness of said outer ring area in the optical axis direction is larger than that of said inner ring area.

4. (Previously Presented) The lens according to claim 3, wherein a depth of said groove in the inner ring area is approximately twice the difference between the thickness of the outer ring area in the optical axis direction and the thickness of the inner ring area in the optical axis direction.

5. (Previously Presented) The lens according to claim 2, wherein a width of said outer ring area in the radial direction is larger than that of said inner ring area.

6. (Previously Presented) The lens according to claim 5, wherein the width of said outer ring area in the radial direction is more than twice and less than three times that of said inner ring area.

7. (Previously Presented) The lens according to claim 1, wherein a width of said groove in a tangential direction is larger than a width of said flange in the radial direction.

8. (Previously Presented) The lens according to claim 7, wherein the width of said groove in the tangential direction is smaller than twice the width of said flange in the radial direction.

9-11. (Canceled).

12. (New) A lens, comprising:

a first lens surface;

a second lens surface, at least one of said first and second lens surfaces being a convex surface; and

a flange formed around the lens, projecting from said convex surface in a radial direction perpendicular to an optical axis, said flange including an outer ring area and an inner ring area that are different in thickness in an optical axis direction, the thickness of said outer ring area in the optical axis direction being larger than that of said inner ring area,

wherein said flange is provided with a groove radially extending from said convex surface to the outer edge of said flange, said groove being cut out of part of said outer and inner ring areas.

13. (New) A lens, comprising:

a first lens surface;

a second lens surface, at least one of said first and second lens surfaces being a convex surface; and

a flange formed around the lens, projecting from said convex surface in a radial direction perpendicular to an optical axis, said flange including an outer ring area and an inner ring area that are different in thickness in an optical axis direction, a width of said outer ring area in the radial direction being larger than that of said inner ring area,

wherein said flange is provided with a groove radially extending from said convex

surface to the outer edge of said flange, said groove being cut out of part of said outer and inner ring areas.

14. (New) A lens, comprising:

a first lens surface;

a second lens surface, at least one of said first and second lens surfaces being a convex surface; and

a flange formed around the lens, projecting from said convex surface in a radial direction perpendicular to an optical axis,

wherein said flange is provided with a groove radially extending from said convex surface to the outer edge of said flange, a width of said groove in a tangential direction being larger than a width of said flange in the radial direction.